Socialist Worker

Rathmines binmen show the way...

TELL THE CORPO TO PAY UP!

BINMEN at the Rathmines depot of Dublin Corporation were right to take unofficial action in early December.

The union negotiated a Dublin-wide productivity agreement which involved the binmen covering more collections in each shift and allowed management to take 12 lorries off the road.

But the Corpo refused to keep their side of the bargain.

The workers are owed an hour's wages a week since July 1997.

Despite the workers getting on to their union and management, the Corporation had not paid up.

The workers organised a work to rule which very soon created a backlog of three days collections.

And the Davitt Road depot took action in support of their colleagues.

By the end of the week management were looking for a settlement and sought a meeting with the unions.

The union officials say that if the workers don't get satisfaction there will be a strike ballot after Xmas.

The binmen are understandably frustrated that their officials didn't demand the money be paid before Xmas.

But it was their unofficial action that brought their grievance to a head after months of stalling by unions and management.

Corpo binmen need to build a massive Yes vote in the strike ballot after Xmas and be prepared to draw on the huge support that exists in other depots. Militant action can put manners on the Corpo managers.

LIMERICK VICTIMISATION

Management and union officials in Limerick Corporation are trying to victimise shop stewards after a report critical of industrial relations.

Over the past four years the Corporation has cut the number of bin men from 34 to 12 and brought in private contractors throughout the Corporation.

Shop stewards that have organised resistance to this job cutting and privatisation agenda should be congratulated. Instead of standing by the stewards in the face of victimisation threats from management, SIPTU officials have even tried to discipline shop stewards. SIPTU should be told by its members to defend their shop stewards against management's attacks.

■Sign the petition demanding an end to this harassment of trade unionists. *Copies of the petition are available from the Rank and File Solidarity Network, 105 O'Hogan Road, Dublin 10.*

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL PRIVATISES

Dublin Corporation is not the only local authority refusing to pay their workers what they owe them.

South Dublin County Council bin men have given huge productivity in recent years. In 1995 they averaged 16 tons a day with five men and a truck.

Since a productivity deal which involved the introduction of wheelie bins 250 redundancies 2 men shift 34 tons a day.

But the council are still refusing to pay back money owed for eating on site plus £12 on the basic parity.

And now the Council is demanding the workers work Stephen's Day despite a vote refusing this intrusion into their legitimate leisure time.

Plenty of money for Councillors

But there's plenty of money for clapped out political hacks.

Under the local authorities scrappage scheme councillors who do not run in the next elections in June will receive a large bonus sum.

Fianna Fail's Ben Briscoe will get £19,000 if he decides not to stand in the next election.

Pat McCartan of Democratic Left has already retired as a councillor to become a well paid judge. But he has put in for a gratuity of £8,697.

It's about time we organised a grassroots working class party that fights for workers' rights and genuine socialism. If you agree fill in the slip below.

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